(b) NCCF has reported that when the original buyer M\$s. Taj Consumer Coop. Society failed to lift the entire quantity, the remaining stock of chickpeas were sold to one firm at the offered rate of Rs. 5300 per MT, which was considered the best available rate at that time by the Grocery and General Merchandise Committee of NCCF.

(c) The firm M/S. Essell International was given 468 bags of sweeping with the approval of the then Managing Director.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The matter was first investigated by a Sub-Committee of the Board of the NCCF, and thereafter by a senior officer of the NCCF.

The matter has also been referred to CBI for investigation.

Action against officials of NCCF involved in import of dates

857. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2138 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th May, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain officers of NCCF had fraudulently appointed a Kandla based Handling and Forwarding Agent in September 1984 without any tender who was also nominated as the buyers representative to cheat the NCCF.

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Manager (Import) while on tour to Dubai had also gone to Kuwait and other countries to collect underhand commission from the foreign supplier as also the difference between the contracted rate ($ 100) and the prevailing rate ($ 85) from the contractor who transported the Dry Dates from Basrah to Bombay;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Shippers have transacted in their books of accounts as having received the entire freight from Basrah to Bombay in Indian Currency against payment by NCCF in foreign currency in violations of FERA regulations;

(d) whether the CBI has since submitted its investigations report into the matter; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken against the officers, involved in these serious irregularities which resulted into the loss of rupees 1.5 crores to NCCF?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The entire matter of alleged irregularities in the import from Iraq and sales of dry dates has been referred to the CBI for investigation. The CBI has also been requested to look into these specific charges while investigating the case.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Action against the official of NCCF, involved in import of Lentils

858. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 340 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain officers of NCCF manipulated acceptance of Cash Security of meagre amount of Rs. 1.10 lakhs against Bank Guarantee of Rs. 5.34 lakhs thereby enabling the foreign supplier to wriggle out from supplying Lentils to NCCF in 1984 and depriving NCCF of its legitimate right of forefeiture of full Bank Guarantee of Rs. 5.34 lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the buyer in India and seller in Turkey were represented by the same person;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Legal/Arbitration Proceedings against the supplier were delayed by an year